

REMARKS

Claims 1–43 were previously pending in this application. Claims 1, 10–14, 22–29 and 37–40 are amended. Claims 4–9, 15–21, 31–36 and 41–43 are canceled. Claims 2, 3 and 30 remain unchanged. No claims are added.

Claims 1–3, 10–14, 22–30 and 37–40 are currently pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 22–27 are allowed. These claims have been amended to correct errors unrelated to patentability. The subject matter and scope of these claims remains unchanged.

Claims 9–14 and 36–40 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Office states that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Said claims have been amended as suggested and are now in condition for allowance.

In particular, claim 9 is canceled and the limitations previously recited therein are incorporated into claim 1. Similarly, claim 36 is canceled and the limitations previously recited therein are incorporated into claim 28.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

Claims 1–4, 15, 18, 20, 21 and 28–31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,731,393 to Currans, et al. These claims have either been amended as stated above or canceled. Therefore, the rejection of these claims has been rendered moot. It is noted that the limitations previously recited in

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claim 9 (now canceled) have been incorporated into claim 1 (currently amended).

Likewise, the limitations previously recited in claim 36 (now canceled) have been incorporated into claim 28 (currently amended).

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

Claims 5–7, 19 and 32–34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Currans et al. and USPTO Publication US 2003/0140315 by Blumberg, et al. These claims have either been amended as stated above or canceled. Therefore, the rejection of these claims has been rendered moot.

Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Currans et al., U.S Patent No. 6,353,479 issued to Lubawy et al. and U.S. Patent No. 6,484,631 issued to Degani et al. Claim 17 has been canceled, thus rendering the rejection thereof moot.

Claims 41 and 42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPTO Publication US 2002/0073039 by Ogg, et al. and USPTO Publication US 2001/0013004 by Haris et al. These claims have been canceled. Therefore, the rejection of these claims has been rendered moot.

Claim 43 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogg, et al., Haris, et al. and U.S. Patent No. 6,574,002 issued to Paczewitz. Claim 43 has been canceled, thus rendering the rejection thereof moot.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above remarks it is submitted that the claims are patentably distinct over the prior art and that all the rejections to the claims have been overcome. Reconsideration and reexamination of the above application is requested.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that the pending claims be

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allowed, and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner believes, after this response, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-0463.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: January 6, 2006

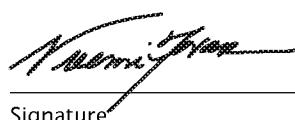
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically deposited with the USPTO on the date shown below to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

January 6, 2006

Date



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Noemi Tovar

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